

Secondhand Smoke

Massachusetts Fact Sheet

In Massachusetts, only 14% of households with children allow smoking in the home. Still, this means that about 200,000 children in Massachusetts are not protected from smoke in their own homes.¹

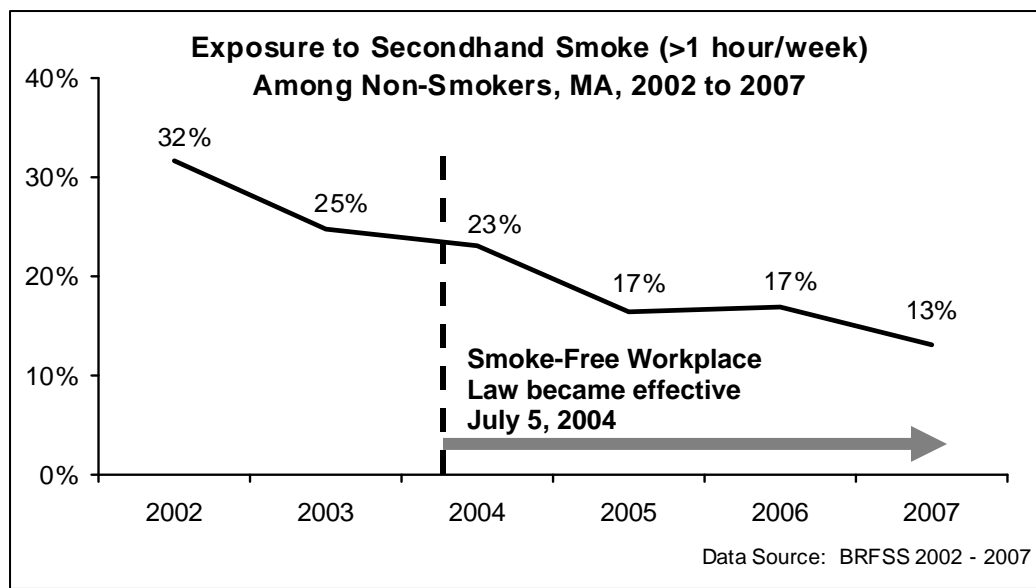
Secondhand smoke causes sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more frequent and severe asthma attacks in children.³

More than 500,000 (13%) of nonsmokers in Massachusetts are exposed secondhand smoke in the home, at work, or in other places more than one hour per week.¹

Secondhand smoke contains at least 250 chemicals known to be toxic, including more than 50 that can cause cancer.²

Nonsmokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke at home or work increase their heart disease risk by 25–30% and their lung cancer risk by 20–30%.³

In Massachusetts, an estimated 480 to 1,360 adult nonsmokers die each year from exposure to secondhand smoke.⁴



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Data Sources

¹ Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Tobacco Control Program. Data based on the Massachusetts Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2007.

² National Toxicology Program. 11th Report on Carcinogens, 2005. (PDF-219KB) Research Triangle Park, NC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Sciences, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, 2000 [cited 2006 Sep 27]. Available from: <http://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/ntp/roc/eleventh/profiles/s176toba.pdf>.

³ U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coordinating Center for Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health, 2006 [cited 2006 Sep 27]. Available from: <http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke/report/>.

⁴ California Environmental Protection Agency. Proposed Identification of Environmental Tobacco Smoke as a Toxic Air Contaminant. Final report, September 29, 2005, approved by Scientific Review Panel on June 24, 2005 [cited 2006 Sep 27]. Available from: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/toxics/ets/ets.htm>. Massachusetts figure based on Tobacco Free Kids estimate available at <http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/reports/settlements/toll.php?StateID=MA>.

